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Basic Imagery Interpretation Report



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ZHANGIZ-TOBE ICBM COMPLEX

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DEPLOYED STRATEGIC SSM FACILITIES

USSR

APRIL 1969

COPY NO. 105

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME

COUNTRY

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Zhangiz-Tobe ICBM Complex

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UTM COORDINATES

NA

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

49-12-00N 081-09-00E

MAP REFERENCE

ACIC. USATC 200, Sheets MO239-12HL, 3d ed, Nov 67 & MO239-16HL, 3d ed, May 67; & SAC USATC 200, Sheet MO239-17HL, 1st ed, Apr 65; scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

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LATEST IMAGERY USED

NEGATION DATE (if required)

NA

ABSTRACT

This report updates and supersedes [redacted] *Zhangiz-Tobe ICBM Complex, USSR*.¹ It contains a location map showing launch site deployment and a table giving construction timing and other data regarding the launch sites and other facilities at the Zhangiz-Tobe ICBM Complex. The information is current through [redacted]

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The complex consists of 36 SS-9 single-silo launch sites, some of which are still under construction. It also contains complex support facilities and a rail-to-road transfer point.

INTRODUCTION

The Zhangiz-Tobe ICBM Complex, in the high steppe region of northeastern Soviet Central Asia, is the southernmost Soviet ICBM complex. It is 82 nautical miles (nm) southeast of Semipalatinsk and extends over an area of 58 nm north-south and 49 nm east-west. The complex contains 36 SS-9 Type IIIC launch sites (Figure 1). The rail-to-road transfer point, and the complex support facilities are 2 nm west of the town of Zhangiz-Tobe, in the central part of the complex.

Transportation into the complex is primarily dependent on the north-south rail line running from Novosibirsk through Semipalatinsk and Zhangiz-Tobe to Alma-Ata. A rail spur branches to the west to serve the complex support facilities and terminates at the rail-to-road transfer point. The majority of towns in the area are served only by unimproved local roads which are inadequate for missile transport. To provide all-weather access within the complex, a system of improved roads has been constructed as the launch sites approached completion.

The terrain in the vicinity of the complex is characterized by relatively flat areas marked by frequent sharp ridges. To the west, the land becomes more rugged as it approaches the mountains. The chief occupation in this region is agriculture, with some gold mining in certain isolated areas. The surrounding country is sparsely inhabited.

The climate of the steppe region ranges from hot summers with maximum temperatures as high as 110 degrees F. to extremely cold winters with minimums as low as -50 degrees F. Stable snow cover usually lasts from November through April. During the winter, the frequency of cloudy days averages about 15 to 20 per month. In the summer, the number of clear days ranges from 10 to 20 per month. There are no SAM defenses or tactical air defense units in close proximity to the Zhangiz-Tobe complex.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Zhangiz-Tobe is one of the six ICBM complexes in the USSR deploying exclusively the Type IIIC single-silo launch sites accommodating the SS-9 missile system. It was one of the first two Type

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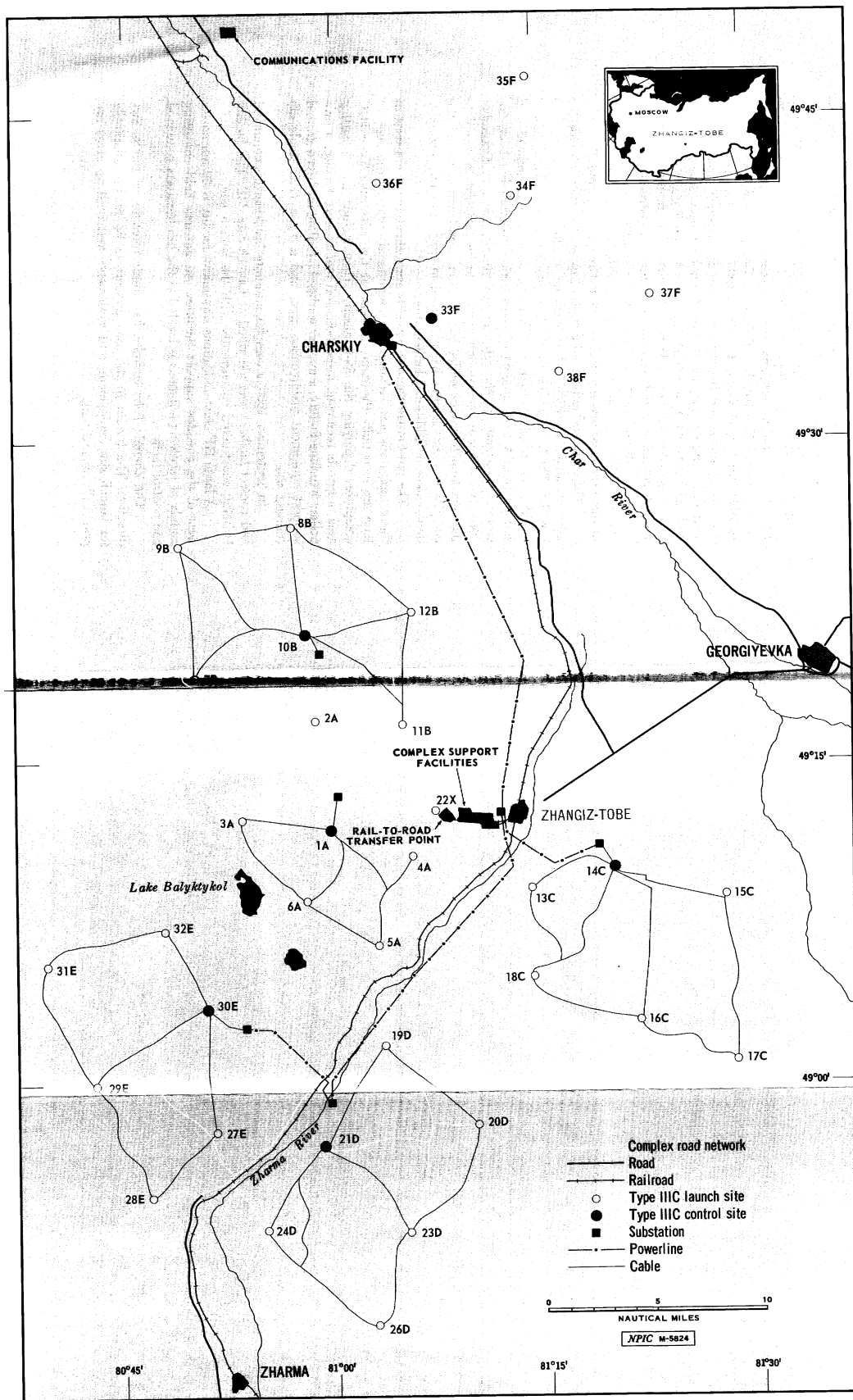


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF ZHANGIZ-TOBE ICBM COMPLEX.

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IIIC complexes to be deployed. The complex contains 36 launch sites deployed in six groups, A through F; complex support facilities; and a rail-to-road transfer point. At present, 24 launch sites and the training site at the rail-to-road transfer point are complete and 12 sites are under construction (Table 1).

The complex was first observed in [redacted] Construction of the complex support facilities probably was initiated during [redacted] and a short time later, in [redacted] Launch Group A was started. Construction of Launch Group B was initiated late in [redacted] and Launch Group C, late in [redacted] In the last half of [redacted] Launch Groups A and B were completed and Launch Group D was started. During the last half of [redacted] Launch Group C was completed and Launch Group E was started. Launch Group F was started early in [redacted] and Launch Group D was completed late in the same year. Launch Groups E and F are in a midstage of construction.

An L-shaped electronics facility was constructed at the control sites in Groups A, B, and C, but was probably later abandoned at each of these sites and was never observed at Groups D, E, and F.

The road- and rail-served complex support facilities² provide the administrative, logistic, and operational control functions for the complex. The facilities consist of a headquarters command and control facility,³ an administration and housing area, and a railhead and storage area. A large amount of construction materials has been observed consistently in the railhead and storage area. In [redacted] the stockpile of materials appears to be sufficient to complete the two launch groups under construction. Construction within the complex support facilities has continued in support of the successive deployment of additional launch sites.

The rail-to-road transfer point⁵ is approximately 0.7 nm west of the complex support facilities. The functional areas of the support base are essentially the same as those at the other five Type IIIC complexes deploying the SS-9 missile. They include an off-loading area; a missile receiving, inspection, and maintenance facility; a propellant handling facility; [redacted] a ground support equipment maintenance area; and a Type IIIC single-silo training site.

In [redacted] a complex alternate headquarters command and control facility⁴ was identified at Launch Site 33F. The facility is being constructed concurrently with the launch site.

A large HF communications transmitter facility is 39 nm north-west of the complex support facilities. An antenna field consisting mainly of receiving antennas is located at the headquarters command and control facility.

The Zhangiz-Tobe complex has ample room to expand in any direction. The terrain in the area appears to be readily adaptable for launch site deployment, and settlements and built-up areas are practically nonexistent.

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REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

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ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet M0239-12HL, 3d ed, Nov 67, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET/

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ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet M0239-16HL, 3d ed, May 67, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET/

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SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet M0239-17HL, 1st ed, Apr 65, scale 1:200,000
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DOCUMENTS

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1. NPIC. Zhangiz-Tobe ICBM Complex, USSR, Apr 67 (TOP SECRET

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2. NPIC. Zhangiz-Tobe ICBM Complex, USSR, Complex Support Facility, Apr 68
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3. NPIC. Soviet ICBM Headquarters Command and Control Facilities, Dec 68 (TOP
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4. NPIC. Alternate Command and Control Facilities at Deployed ICBM Complexes,
USSR, Nov 68 (TOP SECRET

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5. NPIC. Rail-to-Road Transfer Points at SS-9 ICBM Complexes, Oct 68 (TOP
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REQUIREMENT

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